

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace claims 1, 2-4, 13, 15-16, 21, 22 and 23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A cutting tool system comprising:

a clamping device including a clamping block having an aperture, the aperture including an aperture surface;

a cutting tool including a front portion at which a cutting edge is disposed, and a shaft extending rearwardly from the front portion, the shaft being fixed in the aperture by a tool-securing clamping force that is releasable to enable the shaft to be displaced relative to the clamping device to a desired position for properly orienting the cutting edge, the shaft including an outer envelope surface facing the aperture surface;

a spring-loaded element projecting from one of the envelope surface and the aperture surface and yieldably engaging a recess formed in the other of the envelope surface and the aperture surface when the cutting tool and its cutting edge are in the desired position, to provide an indication that the cutting tool is in such desired position by requiring a sudden increase in a force necessary to displace the cutting tool from the desired position; and

a clamp actuator arranged to act on the clamping block to cause the clamping block to apply the tool-securing clamping force to the shaft independently of the spring-loaded element.

2. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 1 wherein the shaft, when the clamping force is released, is displaceable by being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the shaft, the spring-loaded element opposing such rotation of the shaft.

3. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 1 wherein the shaft, when the clamping force is released, is displaceable along a longitudinal axis of the shaft, the spring-loaded element opposing such longitudinal movement of the shaft.

4. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 3 wherein the shaft, when the clamping force is released, is also displaceable by being rotatable about the longitudinal axis, the spring-loaded element opposing such rotation.

13. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 1 wherein the recess has a generally V-shaped cross section, the spring-loaded element comprising a rotatable element.

15. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 13 wherein a spring biasing the rotatable element comprises a coil spring.

16. (Amended) The cutting tool system according to claim 13 wherein a spring biasing the rotatable element comprises an elastomer.

21. (Amended) A cutting tool comprising a front portion at which a cutting edge is disposed, and a shaft extending rearwardly from the front portion, the shaft including an outer envelope surface having a plurality of identical recesses formed therein, the recesses spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of the shaft for selectively receiving a shaft position indicator.

22. (Amended) A tool-clamping device comprising a block having an aperture adapted to receive and clamp a shaft of a cutting tool, a spring-loaded element mounted in the block and projecting into the aperture for yieldably contacting the shaft, and a clamping actuator arranged to act on the block independently of the spring-loaded element for reducing a cross section of the aperture to clamp the shaft.

23. (Amended) The tool-clamping device according to claim 22 wherein the spring-biased element comprises a rotatable element spring-biased toward the aperture.

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Insert new claims 25-27 as follows:

25. (New) A cutting tool system comprising:

a clamping device including a clamping block having an aperture, the aperture including an aperture surface;

a cutting tool including a front portion at which a cutting edge is disposed, and a shaft extending rearwardly from the front portion, the shaft being fixed in the aperture by a clamping force that is releasable to enable the shaft to be displaced relative to the clamping device to a desired position for properly orienting the cutting edge, the shaft including an outer envelope surface facing the aperture surface, and

a spring-loaded device projecting from one of the envelope surface and the aperture surface and yieldably engaging a recess formed in the other of the envelope surface and the aperture surface when the cutting tool and its cutting edge are in the desired position, to provide an indication that the

cutting tool is in such desired position by requiring a sudden increase in a force necessary to displace the cutting tool from the desired position;

wherein the shaft, when the clamping force is released, is displaceable by being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the shaft, the spring-loaded device opposing such rotation of the shaft.

26. (New) A cutting tool system comprising:

a clamping device including a clamping block having an aperture, the aperture including an aperture surface;

a cutting tool including a front portion at which a cutting edge is disposed, and a shaft extending rearwardly from the front portion, the shaft being fixed in the aperture by a clamping force that is releasable to enable the shaft to be displaced relative to the clamping device to a desired position for properly orienting the cutting edge, the shaft including an outer envelope surface facing the aperture surface, and

a spring-loaded device projecting from one of the envelope surface and the aperture surface and yieldably engaging a recess formed in the other of the envelope surface and the aperture surface when the cutting tool and its cutting edge are in the desired position, to provide an indication that the cutting tool is in such desired position by requiring a sudden increase in a force necessary to displace the cutting tool from the desired position;

wherein the shaft portion and the aperture define a common longitudinal axis, the envelope surface being substantially cylindrical and the recess comprises a groove extending parallel to the longitudinal axis.

27. (New) A cutting tool system comprising:

a clamping device including a clamping block having an aperture, the aperture including an aperture surface;

a cutting tool including a front portion at which a cutting edge is disposed, and a shaft extending rearwardly from the front portion, the shaft being fixed in the aperture by a clamping force that is releasable to enable the shaft to be displaced relative to the clamping device to a desired position for properly orienting the cutting edge, the shaft including an outer envelope surface facing the aperture surface; and

a spring-loaded device projecting from one of the envelope surface and the aperture surface and yieldably engaging a recess formed in the other of the envelope surface and the aperture surface when the cutting tool and its cutting edge are in the desired position, to provide an indication that the cutting tool is in such desired position by requiring a sudden increase in a force necessary to displace the cutting tool from the desired position;

wherein the shaft portion and the aperture define a common longitudinal axis, the recess comprising at least one groove lying in a plane oriented perpendicularly to the axis, the at least one groove comprising a plurality of grooves spaced apart along the axis at regular 10 mm intervals.

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